

THE NEED TO WEED

Weeding is an important part of gardening. Here are tips to help you keep your garden healthy and weed free.

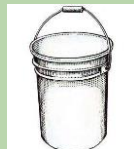
Look closely because weeds can look a lot like the plants you are trying to grow. A weed is any plant growing where it is not wanted. When we remove the weeds from the ground, it is called “weeding.”

Here are some reasons why it is important to weed your garden:

- Weeds compete with plants for things like food, water, sunlight and space.
- Weeds grow and spread very quickly and can take over your garden.
- Weeding keeps the garden looking nice and gives you enough space to work.

How do we get rid of weeds?

- Pull them, hoe them or use hand tools to remove them from the ground (before they go to seed).
- Use mulch around the plants to help stop new weeds from growing.
- Some stubborn weeds may need to be sprayed with chemicals to kill them.



SEASON EXTENSION



When the weather gets cold, we put on our coats. The extra insulation holds our body heat inside the protective coverings. The same idea works for garden plants. You can help provide warmth and protection for your garden by keeping the cold night air and chilling winds away from tender leaves. This traps the soil's warmth close to the ground around plants. Here are three ways to do this:

Cloches are small containers that cover one plant and can be made out of milk jugs.

Cold frames are covers built over gardens. They usually have glass panels or windows that are angled towards the south to catch the most sunlight and heat.



Low tunnels or row covers are made up of fabric-covered hoops.

Each of these methods protects plants from cold weather in the spring or late fall which gives us a longer harvest season of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Season Extension Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kj5LNQjTLNI>

A Garden is the Way to Grow



A garden guide for students

Funds provided for this project by a
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TOOLS FOR WEEDING

Bucket is used for hauling.

Gloves protect your hands.

Weeding finger helps you weed in tight places. Great for making seed furrows and detangling roots too.

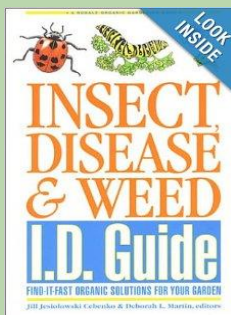
Weed identification guide helps you identify the weeds in your garden.

Digging fork allows you to rake out stones and weeds and break up clods without cutting roots.

Stirrup hoe is a tool that is used to cut weeds just under the surface with a moving blade. The edges are not sharp so you are able to hoe right next to the plant.

How to weed

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyhWjyu0DbM>



WHY WATER?

WATERING TIPS:

Water only when needed (the soil is dry, it's really hot, or you have new seeds).

Gardens need about 1" of rain per week.

Water near the roots.

Water in the morning if possible instead of at night to help prevent disease.

Use about ½ gallon of water for every square foot of garden.

Conserve water by mulching established plants.



TOOLS TO WATER WITH

Water wand (shown above) helps get water to the roots of the plants.

Soaker hoses are hoses with tiny holes that you lay on the ground to provide a small, steady flow of water to the plant roots.

Watering cans are great to use when you have to haul water to your plants. Make your watering can by poking holes in a cottage cheese or yogurt container and use a 5 gallon bucket to haul the water in. Dip your container in the bucket and use it like a watering can. You can also use a spout on a milk jug.

How to water

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Feyuo_nHBNrY&feature=youtu.be

WE NEED BEES



You know that all plants need sunshine and water, but did you know that bees are one of the most important things your garden needs? Plants produce tiny flowers that – with the help of bees – are pollinated so they can produce fruits and vegetables.

When bees land on flowers in search of nectar to make honey, they transfer pollen from one plant to another. This fertilizes the flowers and allows them to produce fruit. Bees pollinate one-third of the food that we eat.

Bees are attracted to colorful and scented flowers. When planting your garden, plant these flowering plants and bushes for the bees: blackberries, cantaloupe, fruit trees, peppers, pumpkins, raspberries, squash, strawberries, watermelon and garlic.

Vegibee pollinator video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEvnD9EqSUQ>